This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A multilayer pearl luster pigment comprising a platelet-shaped substrate, which substrate comprises a material having a refractive index of more than 1.8, and, on the substrate, at least:

(i) a first layer of a material of low refractive index in the range from 1.35 to 1.8,

(ii) a second layer, coated on the first layer, of a material having a refractive index of more than 1.8, and

(iii) a semitransparent metal layer, having a thickness of from 5 to 20 nm, ~~which is applied to~~ either coated on the substrate, ~~or to the layers (i) or~~ coated on layer (ii), or coated on the second layer of a repeated first and second layer coated on layer (ii), and

(iv) optionally, an aftercoating.

2. **(Previously Presented)** A pearl luster pigment according to claim 1, wherein the substrate is platelet-shaped titanium dioxide, zirconium dioxide, α-iron (III) oxide, tin dioxide or zinc oxide.

3. **(Currently Amended)** A pearl luster pigment according to claim 1, wherein the material of low refractive index is SiO_2, Al_2O_3, ~~AlO(OH)~~ AlO(OH), B_2O_3, MgF_2 or an acrylate polymer.

4. (Previously Presented) A pearl luster pigment according to claim 1, wherein the second layer material having a refractive index of more than 1.8 is TiO_2, ZrO_2, Fe_2O_3, SnO_2, ZnO or a mixture of these oxides or an iron titanate, an iron oxide hydrate, a titanium suboxide or a mixture and/or mixed phase of these compounds.

5. (Currently Amended) A process for producing the pigment of claim ~~1~~ 2, which comprises:

- applying a solution of an organic or inorganic compound of the metals titanium, zirconium, iron, tin, zinc or mixtures thereof as a precursor of the substrate material ~~as~~ in a thin film to a continuous belt,
- solidifying the liquid film by drying and, in so doing, developing ~~the metal~~ a titanium, zirconium, iron, tin and/or zinc oxide by chemical reaction from the precursor,
- detaching the dried film,
- washing the resultant substrate particles, which have a refractive index of more than 1.8, and resuspending them in a coating solution,
- coating the substrate particles with: ~~two or more layers of metal oxides or metals~~

  (i) a first layer of a material of low refractive index in the range from 1.35 to 1.8,

  (ii) a second layer, coated onto the first layer, of a material having a refractive index of more than 1.8, and

(iii) a semitransparent metal layer, coated either onto the substrate or onto the layer (ii),

and

- optionally, aftercoating the resultant pigment.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 5, wherein the precursor is titanium tetrachloride.

8. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 5, wherein, following drying of the material to be coated, the layers are applied in a fluidized-bed reactor by CVD and/or PVD.

9. (Previously Presented) A method for pigmenting paints, printing inks, plastics cosmetics, glazes for ceramics, or glasses which comprises incorporating a pigment according to claim 1 therein.

10. (Previously Presented) A method for printing items of value or of security, which comprises incorporating a pigment according to claim 1 therein.

11. (Previously Presented) Paints, printing inks, plastics, cosmetics, ceramics, glasses and polymer films pigmented with a pigment according to Claim 1.

12. (Previously Presented) Laser-markable plastics comprising pigments according to Claim 1.

13. (Previously Presented) An agricultural film, which comprises a pigment according to claim 1.

14. (Currently Amended) A multilayer pearl luster pigment of claim 1, wherein the semitransparent metal layer is ~~applied~~ coated on the second layer, (ii).

15. (Previously Presented) A multilayer pearl luster pigment of claim 14, wherein the pigment further comprises, on the semitransparent metal layer, a further layer of material of low refractive index in the range from 1.35 to 1.8 and, thereon, a further layer of material having a refractive index of more than 1.8.

16. (Previously Presented) A multilayer pearl luster pigment of claim 1, wherein the pigment further comprises, on the second layer (ii), an additional layer of a material of low refractive index in the range from 1.35 to 1.8 and thereon a layer of material having a refractive index of more than 1.8, and the semitransparent metal layer is on this last layer.

17. (Currently Amended) A multilayer pearl luster pigment of claim 1, wherein the platelet-shaped substrate are particles having a thickness between 0.05 and 5 μm and an extent in the other two dimensions of 2 to 200 μm, the first layer, (i), has a thickness of 10 to 1000 nm, and the second layer, (ii), has a thickness of 10 to 550 nm~~, and the semitransparent metal layer has a thickness of 5 to 20 nm~~.

18. (Currently Amended) A multilayer pearl luster pigment of claim 1, wherein the platelet-shaped substrate are particles having a thickness between 0.05 and 2 μm and an extent in the other two dimensions of 5 to 50 μm, the first layer, (i), has a thickness of 20 to 800 nm, and the second layer, (ii), has a thickness of 15 to 400 nm~~, and the semitransparent metal layer has a thickness of 5 to 20 nm~~.

19. (Previously Presented) A multilayer pearl luster pigment of claim 1, wherein the semitransparent metal layer is of aluminum, chromium, nickel, a chromium-nickel alloy, or silver.